

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 00177 191644Z

47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

SAJ-01 /081 W

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P R 191500Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2914

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN

DIA WASHDC

UNCLAS NICOSIA 0177

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR CY PINT

SUBJECT: INITIAL MEDIA REACTION TO CLERIDES' WITHDRAWAL OF  
RESIGNATION

REF: NICOSIA 0166 (DTG 171645Z JAN 76)

1. SUMMARY: GREEK CYPRIOT MEDIA HAVE FOLLOWED FACTIONAL LINES  
IN REPORTING CLERIDES' WITHDRAWAL OF RESIGNATION. ANTI-CLERIDES  
PRESS IS ACIDLY CRITICAL OF HIS HANDLING OF RESIGNATION AND  
SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT OF WITHDRAWAL. PRO-CLERIDES PRESS IS  
SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE, CALLS ON HIM TO EXPLAIN REASONS FOR  
RECENT ACTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. CLERIDES' WITHDRAWAL OF RESIGNATION WAS MAJOR NEWS STORY  
HERE JANUARY 18, HEADLINED IN ALL PAPERS. PRO-LYSSARIDES,  
ANTI-CLERIDES TA NEA IN SARCASTIC NEWS STORY REPORTED: "NOT  
HAVING ENLIGHTENED US ON HIS REASONS FOR RESIGNING (AS USUAL  
BEFORE TALKS) AND CAUSING SO MUCH COMMOTION, MR CLERIDES  
YESTERDAY SENT TWO PAGE TYPED ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE PRESS  
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 00177 191644Z

WITHDRAWING -- AS EXPECTED -- HIS RESIGNATION. HE THUS

AVOIDED FACING THE PRESS CONTRARY TO WHAT HE INITIALLY HAD SAID HE WOULD DO." PRO-CLERIDES AGON STRESSED: "IT'S NECESSARY TO PROTECT PRESTIGE OF NEGOTIATOR. CLERIDES EXPECTS REASONS FOR HIS RESIGNATION WILL BE FACED SQUARELY." RIGHTIST WEEKLY ALLAGHI GRUMBLED: "RESIGNATION--OR THREAT OF RESIGNATION -- OF CLERIDES CAUSED A VARIETY OF REACTIONS AMONG PEOPLE WHO SHOULD HAVE BEEN TOLD THE TRUTH."

3. CLERIDES SHARED HEADLINES WITH LEBANON AND UP-COMING INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN JANUARY 19 WEEKLY NEWSPAPERS (NO GREEK CYPRIOT DAILES MONDAY). PRO-CLERIDES KYPRUS BANNERED: "CLERIDES NOW EXPECTS CERTAIN CONDITIONS TO BE MET"; PRO-MAKARIOS DEMOCRATIKI: "KARAMANLIS IS ANGRY", LYSSARIDES' ANEXARTITOS REFERRED TO "RESIGNATION SHOW" AND WARNED "HE (CLERIDES) LACKS NECESSARY TALENT AND REPEATS HIMSELF TO SUCH AN EXTENT THAT PEOPLE ARE JUSTIFIED IN CONCLUDING HE IS PLAYING SOME GAME TO COVER HIS DEMANDS OR THIS (FUROR) IS ALL INTENDED TO ANSWER CLERIDES' NEED FOR RECOGNITION". PRO-CLERIDES ALITHIA REPEATED ESSENCE OF EARLIER MAKHI STORY (REFTEL) AND OBSERVED ONE REASON FOR CLERIDES' RESIGNATION WAS THAT "PEOPLE VERY CLOSE TO MAKARIOS HAVE BEEN FINANCING --MOST PROBABLY WITH HIS KNOWLEDGE -- PUBLICATIONS WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE IS TO UNDERMINE TALKS AND TO MALIGN CLERIDES..." EXTREME RIGHT ELEFTHERIOTIS CONCLUDED: "CLERIDES AFFAIR HAS EXPOSED GOC... GOC'S ISOLATION FROM THE PEOPLE IS INCREASING."

4. GOVERNMENT-OWNED RADIO AND TV CBC, WHICH HAD EARLIER PLAYED DOWN CLERIDES STORY, ON EVENING JANUARY 17 LED WITH RESIGNATION WITHDRAWAL. STORY HAS BEEN DROPPED COMPLETELY IN SUBSEQUENT BROADCASTS.  
CRAWFORD

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE  
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